

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently Amended)** A cowl for use in a fly fishing rod assembly, ~~the fly fishing assembly including that includes~~ a reel and a rod having a tip end, a butt end spaced from the tip end, and a handle region located between the tip end and the butt end, the rod including: 1) a reel seat body located between the handle region and the butt end and having a bottom engaging the reel and a top located opposite the bottom; 2) a fixed reel lock component located adjacent the handle region; ~~and~~ 3) a moveable reel lock component located proximate the butt end of the rod; ~~and~~ 4) a handle located in the handle region, the handle having a butt end proximate the reel seat body and providing a hand grip for a user when the user is properly gripping the fly fishing rod assembly during use, said cowl comprising:

a semi-cylindrical body having top and side surfaces adapted to be ~~joined with~~ abutted to the ~~rod butt end of the handle,~~ said semi-cylindrical body adapted to partially surround portions of the reel seat body adjacent the reel and substantially seamlessly extend the handle toward the butt end of the rod past the fixed reel lock component toward the moveable reel lock component thereby covering a portion of the reel seat body.

2. **(Previously Presented)** A cowl according to claim 1, wherein said top surface of said semi-cylindrical body and said side surfaces of said semi-cylindrical body have a convex trailing end and convex bottom edges, respectively.

3. **(Withdrawn)** A cowl according to claim 2, further comprising a flange extending between said convex side edges adjacent the reel, wherein said flange prevents sliding of the hand of a user against the reel.

4. **(Withdrawn)** A cowl according to claim 3, wherein said cowl is adapted to be removably joined with the rod handle.

5. **(Currently Amended)** A fly fishing rod handle for use in a fly fishing rod assembly, ~~the fly fishing assembly including that includes~~ a reel and a rod having a tip end, a butt end spaced from the tip end, and a handle region located between the tip end and the butt end, the rod including: 1) a reel seat body located between the handle region and the butt end and having a

bottom engaging the reel, and a top located opposite the bottom; 2) a fixed reel lock component located adjacent the handle region; and 3) a moveable reel lock component located proximate the butt end of the rod, said fly fishing rod handle comprising:

an elongated handle sleeve configured to be secured to the rod in the handle region, said elongated handle sleeve providing a hand grip for a user when the handle is secured to the rod and the user is properly gripping the fly fishing rod assembly during use; and

a semi-cylindrical cowl having top and side surfaces, said semi-cylindrical cowl joined with said elongated handle sleeve so as to provide a substantially seamless extension to said elongated handle sleeve, said semi-cylindrical cowl adapted to (i) extend past the fixed reel lock component toward the moveable reel lock component, and (ii) cover substantially all of the top of the reel seat body.

6. **(Currently Amended)** A fly fishing rod handle according to claim 5, wherein said top surface of said semi-cylindrical ~~body~~ cowl and said side surfaces of said semi-cylindrical ~~body~~ cowl have a convex trailing end and convex bottom edges, respectively.

7. **(Withdrawn)** A fly fishing rod handle according to claim 6, further comprising a flange extending between said convex side edges adjacent the reel, wherein said flange prevents sliding of the hand of a user against the reel.

8. **(Original)** A fly fishing rod handle according to claim 5, wherein said cowl is adapted to be removably joined with the rod handle.

9. **(Currently Amended)** A cowl attachment for use in a fly fishing rod having a butt end and including a fixed reel lock component distal from the butt end, a moveable reel lock component located proximate the butt end, ~~and a reel seat body extending between the fixed reel lock component and the moveable reel lock component,~~ and a handle located immediately adjacent the reel seat body and extending away from the butt end, the handle providing a hand grip for a user when the user is properly gripping the fly fishing rod assembly during use, said cowl attachment comprising:

a semi-cylindrical body at least partially surrounding portions of the fixed reel lock component and the reel seat body, extending past the fixed reel lock component toward the moveable reel lock component, and covering at least a portion of the reel seat body when said semi-cylindrical body is properly secured to the fly fishing rod, said semi-cylindrical body providing a substantially seamless extension to the handle.

10. **(Previously Presented)** A cowl attachment according to claim 9, wherein said semi-cylindrical body includes a top surface and side surfaces having a convex trailing end and convex bottom edges, respectively.

11. **(Withdrawn)** A cowl attachment according to claim 10, further comprising a flange extending between said convex side edges adjacent the reel, wherein said flange prevents sliding of the hand of a user against the fly fishing reel.

12. **(Original)** A cowl attachment according to claim 9, wherein said cowl is adapted to be removably joined with a fly fishing rod handle.

13. **(Withdrawn)** A cowl attachment according to claim 11, wherein said flange is removably attached with said cowl attachment.